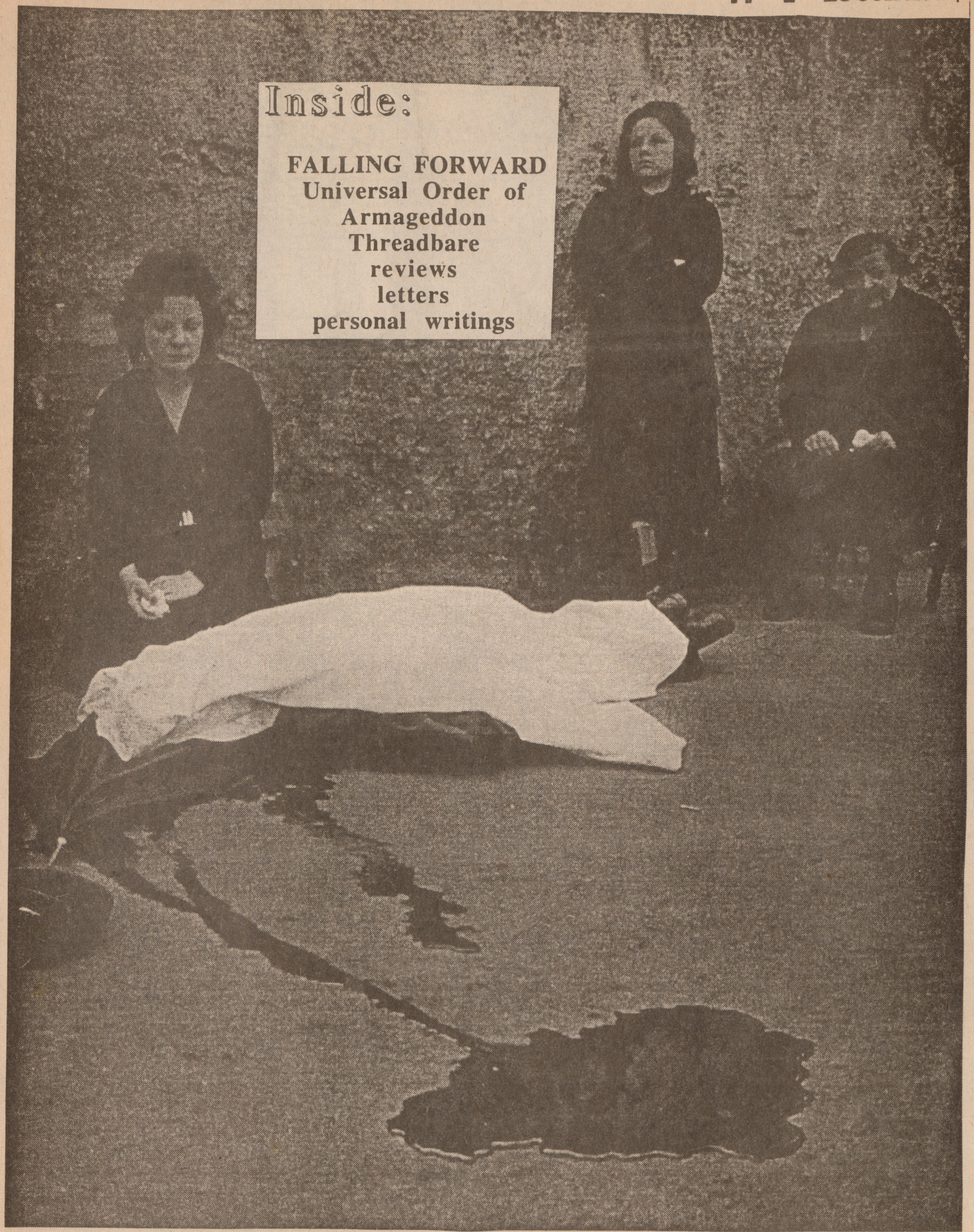
Screams From Inside #4

25cents/1$



Inside:

FALLING FORWARD
Universal Order of
Armageddon
Threadbare
reviews
letters
personal writings

HELLO. MY NAME IS CARISSA AND THIS IS MY ZINE SCREAMS FROM INSIDE. I GUESS I SHOULD START OFF THIS INTRO BY TELLING YOU WHAT IM ABOUT AND WHAT THIS ZINE IS ABOUT. PERHAPS. THEN. YOU WILL HAVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT I AM TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH. THIS ZINE IS ABOUT ME. IN MANY WAYS IT IS MY STORY. JUST AS MANY NOVELISTS WRITE BOOKS. THIS IS A MINI BOOK ABOUT ME. THE WAY I THINK. MY EXPERIENCES. WHAT I THINK OF THOSE EXPERIENCES. WHAT I SEE. ECT. ALOT OF MY WRITINGS COINCIDE WITH HARDCORE AND SXE SUBCULTURES BECAUSE I FIND THEM TO BE A LARGE PART OF MY LIFE. AND ALOT OF THINGS THAT I FIND IMPORTANT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE HARDCORE AND SXE SCENES. MANY THINGS EXIST IN MY MIND AS SHORT SPURTS OF ANGER. JUST FLY-BY-THE-NIGHT THOUGHTS AND THAT IS THE WAY I HAVE WRITTEN THEM. THERE ARE MANY THOUGHTS BUT THEY ARE SHORT AND LEAVE YOU QUESTIONING. JUST AS THEY LEAVE ME QUESTIONING. I DONT KNOW THE ANSWERS. I ONLY BRING UP QUESTIONS. THOUGHTS. IDEAS. AND MAYBE YOU MIGHT BE A LITTLE SMARTER THAN ME AND YOU CAN HELP ME SOLVE THEM. THOUGH I DOUBT IT SINCE THEY ARE OFTEN TOO COMPLEX TO FIND A REAL EXPLANATION FOR. ALOT OF MY WRITINGS GO ALONG WITH THIS DILEMMA THAT I AM DEALING WITH. IT IS LIKE A SPLIT IN MY PERSONALITY. HALF OF ME WANTS TO FIND COMFORT THROUGH ANOTHER HUMAN BEING AND WANTS TO MAKE COMMITMENTS AND BE SAFE. HOWEVER. THE OTHER HALF WANTS TO SEEK AND FIND OUT NEW THINGS ABOUT THE WORLD. IT DOESNT WANT TO BE HELD BY ANYTHING. THIS DILEMMA IS VERY UPSETTING TO ME AND I FEEL LIKE I HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH IT FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS. SO THIS IS MY STORY. I HOPE THAT YOU CAN RELATE TO MY STORY AND MAYBE TELL ME YOUR STORY. MY STORY MAY FIT TO ALL HUMAN BEINGS AND IT MIGHT FIT ONLY TO A FEW. BUT I DONT REALLY KNOW HOW THAT WORKS CAUSE I KNOW ONLY MY STORY. AND THAT IS ALL THAT I REALLY KNOW TO TELL YOU RIGHT NOW.

IF YOUD LIKE TO RESPOND TO ME. WRITE TO:
POST OFFICE BOX 13044 MINNEAPOLIS. MN 55414
OR BY EMAIL: CLAR0043GOLD.TC.UMN.EDU

The other day you told me you would never, ever want me. You saw me on the floor crying, and you looked coldly down at me, "Get over it." The rest of the day I felt such anguish, and the next day I just didn't care anymore. I talked to a few people who cared about me and I realize how mean you really are. If you could do this to me, why would I want you? I guess the pain you get from a person helps you to get over them. The pain you get when you talk to them keeps you away. I realize what you are really like and I don't want it. I don't want it anywhere around me. Are you happy now? I don't want you.

Only a fool forgives.

I read this book once where there was these people living in a world with three suns. It was never dark in that world. Once they had a ride in an amusement park which took people through a dark tunnel. They had to shut the ride down cause there were cases of people getting scared of closed places(like buildings) and killing themselves. The people who took the ride went crazy. I think that many people don't have the strength to deal with another person's perspective on life. They are scared to death to even acknowledge it's existence. I wonder if they would go crazy if one day their lives fell apart., If they woke up in a crime riddened "war zone," where your enemy doesn't just talk behind your back, but can kill you. This happens, but many like to pretend it doesn't. They blurt out stupid things like, "Be happy, can't you just be happy." I am happy and I have the strength to try to understand this. A theorist on intelligence once said that intelligence is reflected by one's ability to adapt to the world and form the clearest perspective on it. Everyone adapts to the world somehow, and each person forms a perspective to cope. Many perspectives destroy other's lives and bring about ignorance. One must learn to form a perspective that takes into account all other perspectives. One's ability to do this is intelligence. Things build up ever so slowly. A bridge will fall down and we'll say that the bridge fell down, just like that. But the bridge fell down slowly, deteriorating slowly till bam! it just collapsed. One day things will change. Right now I can't say I know how they will, I just know they will change. And there will be some people who will go crazy and some who won't. Which will you be?

You and I together. I see what I am alone and I see that the only way I could be more is with you. I alone can make auditoriums laugh, cry, and stunned with utter intensity. I alone can sit and write the most amazing poem and see the most beautiful sunset, but who do I have to tell this to? Who do I have to witness this with? God, you and I together. You with your impulsiveness, humour, charm, social graces, and life experiences, and me with my dreams, opinions, anger, and strength-we could be the most amazing union. You and I against the world. We could win. If you'd only wanted it to. We could win.

He said, " the reason why I beat you now is because you ask why I beat you."

People never change. Who are we kidding? I'm living in a society where everyone is trying to change someone else, where prison systems and psychologists claim that psychopaths, scitzophrenics and child molesters can be reformed. These people have psychological illnesses that are deep rooted. Do you really think their psychosises will go away by having an educated stranger talk to them. A friend of mine told me the other day, " oh, my boyfriend has changed, he's not an alcoholic anymore and he doesn't hit me" Does this type of behavior really go away. I believe you can change certain habits you have but you can't change who you are. You can stop drinking, smoking, drugs, sex, and eating meat, but you still remain to be the cold, selfish, scared, and mean person you were before. Alcohol just enhances these qualities. How can a gay man chose to be straight? How can a woman choose to be a man? How can a black man choose to be white? How can someone really change who they are? They can't. They are always the same. They just put on a new act hoping to fool everyone into thinking that they are good, fine, people. But, my god, the monsters that lie underneath alot of these people, you would never expect. The self hate that exists in these people playing the act, playing the game; that you can be something you're not. I wake up at night with nightmares when I figure out what some of the people I know are really like, when I open up their closets filled with ripped apart corpses, dirt, and ugliness. The sweet normal boy with the innocent appearance, never would I guess that inside lies a monster.

I said good-bye to you the other day. I tell myself that I mean it, but I don't. I really say good-bye to the pain, and that's all that you give me lately. Maybe someday things will be different. Maybe someday you'll realize what you put me through and my pain will really matter to you. Maybe someday you'll care for me. But that hope only hurts me more now. It only continues to keep

unhappy feelings in my heart, in my world. So I say good-bye, and you need to say good-bye back. The pieces of the puzzle no longer fit. We can never go back. Good-bye. Good-bye forever.

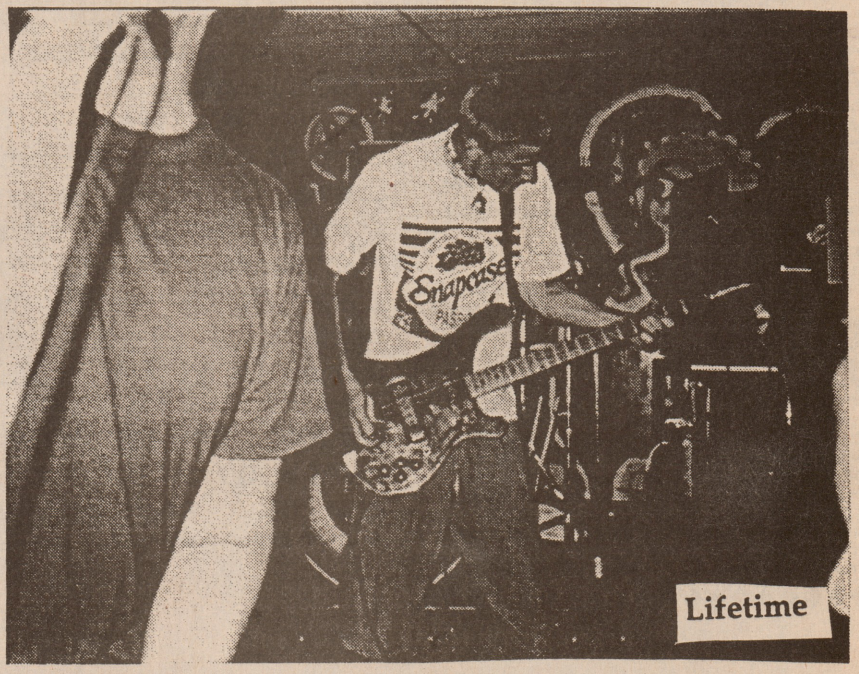
The sxe hardcore scene makes a rational appeal to many people. I think the doctrines intellectually appeal to them in their reading and observation of the world. This appeal is enhanced by the fact that it presents answers-in a simple and easily digested form-to questions that we(especially men) have been asking ourselves and others in our childhoods especially when we were exposed to the paradoxes of American society of the 80s/90s. Sxe/hardcore compensates for the inferiority many of us felt as children, and adolescence. It permits us to feel superior to every man who does not posses our simple set of maxims to meet every situation or problem. This alone does not matter. With hardcore, some could give vent to their hatred and aggression which were originally directed at other things and they can do this with unlimited freedom. I think everyone, including myself, who participates in the hardcore scene has this quality to some extent, yet I think their are certain groups, for example hardliners, who are engrossed in this quality. SxE/Hardcore permits these people to express these qualities and direct them upon a broad segment of society, channalize them toward a plenitude of objects, gives them the words, and even the techniques to implement them. Moreover, while making hatred and aggression more acceptable, it serves to contain hatred and aggression. So hardline lets those who are impressed by aggression and violence to indulge, yet would see that this aggression does not get out of control. For many hardcore is a way of adjusting, of compromising, of containing aggression. This is accomplished because in sxe and hardcore there is the proposition that under every circumstance, hardcore/sxe "doctrine" is correct. This requires an enormous amount of plasticity among its members. These people can be led as long as their needs for aggression are met. I guess we are forever the dependent type wishing to be taken care of by something, wishing for something to fulfill our needs. Too bad for some those are needs to destroy rather than to love. Maybe that's why the sxe scene makes me sick sometimes, and I feel as if I must separate myself from it.

Sometimes, I don't think punk rock is about anything but trying to be a rock star. I mean why else is anyone involved in it. We have no unified political stance, we all seem to disagree on most issues. Its like we don't even really care about the issues, really, we just want to be big kings in our own little worlds. Its all about consumption and overglorification of musical idols in which each of us hopes to someday become. So everyone will turn around and look at how beautiful you are and how smart you are. No one seems to notice you, but one day, you'll be the rock star or the zinester, or the owner of a record label that everyone will look at, and they all will worship you and the only way you can do that "your way" is through hardcore. But are people really doing it their way or are they hiding behind the status quo in order to make connections? Anyone that looks for a higher order and has their own universal beliefs doesn't need to belong to a group. In fact, they can't survive in a group. So these people get pushed out, when they are the ones that can really make the "scene" more than just a group based on consumption of worthless 7"s. Hardcore has gotta set up some new rules.

At the beginning of this zine I mentioned being at a point of crisis. I don't know if this applies to all womyn or all men, just most that I have come in contact with, so in your case it could be wrong. All my life I've been told that I, as a woman, don't have an identity and the only way I achieve identity is by being with the right man. When I was in a relationship, I really gave a shit what the boy did. I mean it was like me doing it. Why did I care? Cause society told me that was all I can be. If I pursue my own talents, society tells me I will make a fool of myself and be alone cause no man likes a woman more successful than he. I have the choice of either having a commitment to a man or to my own hopes and dreams. Since a man is safe and easy, I went after him. Most men don't like it much when I expressed my opinions or surpassed them in abilities. They usually tried to shut me out because of it. Men say that they like intelligent, independent womyn, but when it comes down to real life, they like womyn who fit the stereotype of what they think womyn should be. Society told men that they need to suppress their feelings and work. It told them that appearing competent and not a fool is where strength exists. They look to womyn because we have no inhibitions about expressing emotions. Expression of emotions is perceived as weakness so womyn are perceived as weak and inferior, and men are strong and superior. With all the stereotypes attacking and downgrading the status of womyn, they still look to womyn because they still want to love and be loved, they still want to say how they feel, but they never have been taught to figure out those emotions or how to express them. Womyn, on the other hand, look to men because they appear to have the power, the contacts, the talent. Society cripples us in our pursuits to succeed so we look to a man who is successful to put our identity into to appear successful. We are such fools. We go from parents, to boyfriends, to husbands cause society fools us into thinking we can't find success through our own wits. We don't want to either cause trying to find success through our own identity takes alot of work, and its easier to be taken care of. I still feel like a victim in a system that will only let you be a victim. I still want a commitment to feel safe, but that's not good enough. I'm scared, so scared of what's out there for me, but I have made the choice. I will pursue my hopes and dreams even if I make a fool of myself and end up alone, even if its hard because I am confronted by men who expect me to be a certain way and are usually disappointed when I'm not. I don't care. I don't care if society makes me feel like a bad grrl because of what I do and how I act. I don't need their laws anymore.

I always feel that you will come back someday. Every morning, I waked up thinking, this will be the day. As I walk home from school, I could hear your footsteps behind me. I looked back expecting to see you, but you were not there. I was embarrassed to walk home with my friends, cause I told them I hated you, yet I hoped to see you on the front step of my apartment building, when I get home. I always hoped you'd call. I always hoped you'd come by and visit me and see how I lived. Every hour of the day I spent time talking to you. Talking to you like you were in the room, but I was only talking to myself. I was always hoping you would come, but you never did.

Its amazing how much time I spend focusing on one person or a group of people who really don't care about me at all. I mean its like I focus my entire existence on a bunch of people who only know my name. I don't bother to impress the people that really care about me. Why do I do that? Why do I chase the things that always run away? I'm never satisfied because these people never seem to care. You know, its funny, I care so much to impress this person(s) and (s)he has no idea I am trying so hard; like its my life, but I'm sure there are other people out there who look at me wondering if I care about what they do and if they impress me. Its funny how that works. A person you haven't seen for years but you always wanted to "show them" ends up being the person serving you at McDonalds. Its funny what silly things we fill our minds with. What silly goals we have sometimes.



You are more powerful than pain
I was living with these four guys in the month of August. All of us were somewhere over the edge and each one of us had our different ways of coping with it. All four sat around and smoked and drank and that's how they coped with their own private miseries. They were hiding from their problems. They took chemicals to make them feel better, to help them through hard situations. So they, like everyone else, do the same thing everyday. They hide from their minds. In the end they are left on the sidelines with no control. NO control because they think the only thing they can control is the fact that they can drink every night. Drink so they can hide again. That's what i believe sxe is about. Not veganism, Champion socks, and 7"records. A person who is truly "nailed to the x" doesn't need to surround himself or herself with other sxe peoples. They don't need to play the stupid popularity game . SXE is about having the ability to control your own future and give an example which will eventually change the futures for others. I'm happy that I'm able to look myself in the mirror and love what I see. I'm happy that when i come home, I can deal with problems by talking to myself, sorting my problems out in my mind is way better than hiding from them. That's why I write everything I go through in my zine, and everyone I know knows every detail of my life, because I am facing life head on and that makes me proud. When sxe loses this philosophy, it loses everything. People are forgetting what sxe is about. Its not about hate, it about self love. Its about seeing reality clearly. Its about individuality.

I have been a nervous wreck all week. I realize that you give me a sort of calmness that I never find with anyone else. I never want to lose that calmness you give me. You kept the sanity in our relationship while I created chaos. Now I realize what I have done. I have railed up the one that kept me intact. I can live without you, but I really don't want to. I know you need this calmness as much as I do. And I will try to give you what you gave me.

XStop the hateX
I used to go to shows where 300-400 people would show up. Now I see this gradual coming apart of the scene. Every group is trying to separate themselves and they all hate the other groups. Why? So now we can't have shows in smaller cities because there is only ten to twelve people interested in the particular ethics and particular subsubsubculture this band represents. So each group gets stricter with its views and "personality" types. Everything

Imputus Inter

isn't fun anymore. Its all rules and regulations and you have to be like this so that we talk to you. Its one extreme or the other: total dork or gutter punk. Yuck, why can't you just be yourself anymore? Why can't we stop separating ourselves and learn to accept one another's differences. Groups are much stronger than individuals. The bigger the group the more power it has. If sxe kids went to punk shows, and punks went to sxe shows, shows would get bigger and bands could tour so you wouldn't have to go to New York or Chicago to see your favorite band. You can make more friends and not feel like you have to do anything to be accepted. Wouldn't that be much easier? We are a subculture that tries to show the world we can produce an economic system based on equality and friendship, but we only look stupid when we all hate eachother, when we all set up heroical systems, when we don't know how to unite ourselves. We need to look different than the rest of the world to show that we can do it better

I was walking down the street the other day and I came to realize what a depressing city I live in. Everyone is so cold and reserved. Never do they seem to form close relationships with others. Everyone is so lonely, but they won't admit it. When you try to speak about this with them they all smile and change the subject. Everyone thinks they are so good and nice because of their political beliefs. Like this realization they have made makes them somehow superior. But really, your political beliefs really don't matter cause any political system will never work out anyway. They will always be a group of people that will be left out. So everyone thinks they are doing their part in the world by having their little political beliefs. These political beliefs have no basis on reality. If one political system was to work that would mean that everyone would have to act a certain way. There would be no individuality, no good and bad, just brain washing. So political systems really can't work. They are more something that relieves people's guilt. People can think to themselves, "the system will take care of them." A system cannot possible handle so many different personalities and cultures because the system works on the basis of sameness. So we get back down to a person's human responsibilities. What can you do to help your crumbling world? It seems like you are so small, and you can't do anything. But you can. Your part in the world affects the few people around you. Those people's lives effect the few around them. You can change the world by taking relationships with others as more important than personal gain. Everyday you can extend a hand to one who needs help. One hand by one extending from one helpless person to another will gradually bring about equality and justice. Saving the world takes work, strength, and action not political ideology and talk. Those vary things have oppressed certain groups and took responsibility from others. Change takes time, there is no medicine that instantly makes things different. We all

need to stand together because there is not just you in the world, there are many others that you are responsible for.

Hate. That is what I feel when I see you. Hate, you can see it in my eyes, that is why they are afraid of me. They would feel really silly if they found out its just the look I make to stop from crying. Expression of my identity breaks your walls down, well. good. Maybe its time those walls should be broken down. Or is there only evil underneath? Tell me, what are you trying to say? All the messages of your songs are screamed as if so meaningful but somehow they leave me empty. Probably cause you don't know either. Tell me, if you don't know than why are you standing in front of all these people and why am I listening to you? All these songs you sing say nothing of the care you feel for anyone else. The songs are about you and only you. Boy, are you selfish! Is there anyone else in your world? Or is the wall too high? If all you've got to preach is selfishness and self pity than get off the stage. We all know enough about that. If you can't give of yourself you're worthless.

The amount of letters I have received because of my views on poverty is phenomenal. Never did I think that such an open minded group of people would be so scared and angry to discuss this issue. SxE, hardcore, and punk are primarily made up of middle class kids, not that that's bad. Its just that living in the suburbs leaves you pretty ignorant to what is going on in the inner city. Since in the city most people live, and possibility for change is most significant, it is important not to let it be forgotten. You can't change a problem by moving away to the suburbs. I think its cool when punk kids move to poor areas. I think that one way of helping the poverty, crime ridden areas is to produce some economy in them. Since minorities can't integrate into white areas cause many don't have the money, maybe whites should integrate minority areas, and, we, the hypocritical big mouth punks, should really start trying to change the world. We should all emerge in a cultural cesspool. Fuck this segregation. Cultures should learn to understand and live with one another. Fuck this hate. I have no tolerance for it. I think we should help out in our communities, our brethren, who are having troubles by spending our time volunteering, our economy by helping worker owned stores, and our location by living in economically disadvantaged areas to bring about diversity and economy.

My life seems to be over. I guess that's why I haven't written in so long. I am consumed in this relationship, and it seems like everything in life has stopped. Its like this movie I saw a while ago. I'm stuck with this beautiful perfect man in this beautiful prison but I feel trapped, and I want to scream for someone to rescue me. But I know that if someone finds me, they will take me from the only thing I have. The only person that will keep me alive. My friends, or rather acquaintances, keep complaining that I have changed, but the truth is I don't need or want to make small talk with them. I want people to have something to say when they walk up and talk to me. Otherwise what's the point? I want something out of relationships, not this "how you doing" crap. I want something more out of my scene besides the. "Did you get that new Resurrection/straight as a hoe split?" My god, is that all you people have to talk about? Talk about real stuff. Talk about what bothers you. This whole thing is lame No one knows who I am. No one knows who you are. Isn't it a little troubling? Isn't it a little lonely

For the past couple months there has been quite a few rumors going out about a certain person concerning whether or not he was supportive of veganism or not. And someone wrote this really nasty thing toward the non vegan/vegetarian person in their zine. He made a few jokes about veganism,, so everyone thinks that somehow he is this terrible person who isn't down with the cause. Tell me, when sxe was first invented was the prerequisite to being sxe being vegan? No. It wasn't even to be vegetarian, but it seems like the scene doesn't really emphasize sxe anymore, it emphasizes denial of everything. Being vegan is cool, but not when it becomes this no end belief that carries along pro-life, anti-sugar, honey, or when vegans use hate and segregation as a way to get across their views. The sxe movement is based on approaching concerns in an intelligent, rational way with control over your mind.

Sitting on the greyhound I realize no one cares, no one believes that people should help take care of eachother. I do. I guess that's why I always assume others do. And I never learn. I get off the bus to go to the bathroom. This guy couldn't get into the men's bathroom with the men's key so they give him the ladies key. He takes forever. When he leaves, I go in. As I'm peeing I hear the sound of the bus leaving. Apparently, the girl I just talked to about going to the bathroom said nothing to the busdriver, nor did the idiot who just left the bathroom. Wonderful world we live in. So the bus takes off with all my $, ticket, clothes, ect. in the middle of nowhere. I run after it for three blocks till the bus halted to the sounds of my screaming. Someone must of heard my screaming, someone must of known I wasn't there, but did anyone say anything? Does anyone ever say anything when something goes wrong or do they keep their mouths shut and let it happen? There was a rape on the fountains of forest park in St.Louis and a big crowd of people stood around and watched. NO one said anything. I guess it takes a different kind of person to stand up and say, "this is wrong guys," but, apparently, hardly any of those exist. We all go on senselessly like we don't really see what's happening. And even when we do we're too scared to speak up because we feel that for some reason we're not allowed. They sure brainwashed us well, didn't they?

My friend got her head grabbed and shoved to the floor because a drunk punk wanted to be obnoxious. It amazes me that its almost acceptable for him to do this to her. I mean, she has no right to go in the pit and expect people to be nice to her. She needs to play the boyz game and grrls aren't aloud to be grrls and say "hey, that fucking hurt," like any sensible person would. Grrls are too busy proving themselves as being just as muscular as men. Grrls are supposed to look, act, and be boyz to be seen as equal. I'm proud of my womanhood, but when I would walk around with a dress I feel like I don't belong. Being grrlish is seen as bad and stupid.. Why do you think grrls get sick of being oppressed in the scene and leave? They get greeted more equal in the real world. Its almost like guys don't want us to get involved. Its acceptable for them to talk to me like I'm stupid. Its acceptable for them to make fun of my grrl qualities. However, its not acceptable for me to call them on their shit. Why? Because since they think I'm stupid anyway, everything I say or do is not rational. So I can scream all I want and no one will listen till I get my boyfriend to tell them, then they listen.

letters

po box 13044 Minneapolis, MN 55414

Dear Carissa,
Thanx for sending me #3. I read it front to back and have re-read it twice now. I'm sorry you couldn't send #2 but its cool. As for asking Curt (Split Lip) for a copy. I won't. I really do not know them. Although I've been to several of there shows and hung-out in the same area I've only spoke a few words to him or the others of his band. You see at the time I was grooving to them, Endpoint, ect. I was not sxe. Its only been almost two years since I went sxe. And a year of it I've been incarcerated. Well before I go into why, what, and how I ended up in prison let me comment on your remarkable zine. Ramblings I find to be the best part of the zine. Its given me a clearer view of you. At times while I was reading it you sounded like a riot grrl, but then there was those deep emotional feelings for someone to love you for you. From what I've read I've come to believe you're a beautiful person. Regardless what your outer appearance is, your inner self shines through, which is the most important part of a person.

Anyway, I relate to you totally. From racism, to making the grades in school, to the lowliness that surrounds. From expression of emotions to the routine of a $4.25 per hour job. I could go on and on. I also to was brought up in the inner city (Indianapolis). Now my folks moved-up and moved to the sub-burbs when I was 15 years old. So I understand your hatred toward subkids. Well I should explain how I ended up in prison. I should give you a better view of myself first.

I'm 25 years old. 6ft4in tall, 200 lbs, ice blue eyes, brownish hair. I've been into the underground for about 13 years. I use to be into drugs, drinking, ect. About two years ago I gave up on getting high. I traveled for three years. I got burnt out. I was so attracted to the sxe scene but knew as far as I was into drugs, all I could do was go to shows. So I gave it all up. Although I consider myself sxe I still yearn for the old days of the punk movement. The 80s were great. There were so many shows I went to. I've seen the bands alot of people only can see now on video. I became vegan and a hardcore one at that. I came back home for a visit and ran into some old friends. One which worked for a local lab which used animals for medical testing. I was totally shocked he actually worked for such a place. So I railed him for days and finally we came up with a plan to release all the animals that weren't sick or druged. So we went in about 1a.m. and released fifteen animals. I loaded all the sick and druged animals into my truck(my dad's) and took them to a vet clinic with a note and took off back to the lab. By this time chad had gone crazy and tore the place apart. I was surprised but pleased. Anyway, afterwards I took off back to San Francisco and found out Chad had been arrested for what we done. I didn't know what to do. I hung out for three months and then turned myself in; in San Francisco. I was brought back and was given the minimum sentence. I'll be released in 9 months. Anyway, I could have gone ^into further detail but it would have taken forever to write it. Carissa, I find you to be a very kind person, a caring person, someone I would like to get to know. So if you find the time to write and share your views, feelings, ect. Please do so. But for now I'll go. I've enclosed $2.90 in stamps for the latest issue of sfi
thanks, Paul.

(excerpts from this 10 page letter I got. I really liked it but couldn't fit the whole thing)
I was in the brown rectangular room sometime on Saturday. (There was no time, that's part of freedom-no time) But some time he got the mail and there was this black and white paper in this package with other stuff and he was excited-he loves mail. The black and white was Carissa's zine. I don't have anything in common with her except occasional thoughts that I come across and that she wrote down and I get surprised and kinda- little justifiably mad that someone else though it too. But kinda a little unjustifiably happy that someone thought it too.

disclaimer, hypocrite, frustrated bitches, self hatred is denial of your true self, explaining ourselves to boyz, still life.
Sometimes I write disclaimers. Someone will always have criticism. Disclaimers are shields against criticism and I get defensive and insecure and write them. I think/worry about what this-that person will think about the writing which is really what they will think of me and I write disclaimers.

I am a hypocrite. I used sex as a tool. I pressured people. I was like all the things I hate in men. I was on the other side too. Used. Like inhumane. Like a dog to fuck. I let them. I wanted someone to to touch me, look at me, just pretend they loved me. Just want me. And now I feel like a horrible person.

I am a frustrated bitch who runs in circles. Over and over the same mistakes. A million breakthroughs to the same concept. You know a goldfish has a short memory. It swims around the bowl once and by the time it gets around to where it started it forgot about that place and now its new and interesting and it does it again. I do the same thing over and over.

Self hatred is denial of your true self. I spent months trying to make them look at me, talk to me, smile at me, treat me with the basic courtesy and respect you treat a human being with. They think I'm subhuman-they still do. We drove to a glass mansion on a mountain in a twenty thousand dollar red Volkswagen passat listening to 'reality bites' soundtrack. We drank beer and played cards and they were so mean. The only time they looked at me was to say drink-I was fucking subservient and I hated myself for denying my true nature which may be annoying like a sore thumb but its better than that.

I spent so much god damned time explaining myself to boys. I read and read and wrote and wrote and thought and talked and formed these opinions and I told him and he said: 'the only reason they go to citadel is tradition'. I hate people who put their two second two cent opinion in and decide my two year opinion is dumb-totally dumb. Its not and I won't sleep with him so he can 'heal me sexually.' God, sometimes I hate guys. I wish they were all gay. Wow, what an idea! Unrealistic to be sure, but still... All the guys that I love just being friends with-we'd must have to deal with that sex shit! There would be no women in beer commercials. There would be no jokes about breast size! They wouldn't give a damn. The Citadel would be different! They'd let women in. Oh that would be so good for the citadel if they were all gay and accepted eachother. Christ. Damn.
I wish there was something important I could say. I wish I could tell you something that mattered . All I can do is give you myself on a piece of paper, which is actually putting myself in a vulnerable position. I got up at 7 this morning and now its 6:30. I'm tired. A lot of people think I don't do the job well enough. But that's life. I do the best I can. Nothing really bad happened. The only good things that happened was that after about 6 tries I finally wrote you a letter remotely worthy of sending and that its half past six and I'm looking out this thick glass window. I can't hear the noise outside but the sun is setting and the leaves are moving so slowly, like hypnosis, and I've always thought the sun looks like an orange jewel behind those trees outside my window. And it doesn't really matter what the light looks like on trees behind my house. Its not really important. But its just one of those things that gets me through. I hope you have good luck Carissa. I hope things go ok.
Sincerely, Anne Lemon

Hello Carissa!
Your zine has been on my list a while now, I sold some but not as many as I hoped. Even though I try hard to bring zines to the people, they 're still not reading alot. Its much 'cooler' it seems to buy records instead of literature. If they buy something to read they prefer to buy something they already know or that are hyped(to mention a few: MRR, Profane Existence, HeartAttack,...these might be a good read but why not take a chance and check out something new)I try to get ahold of new stuff as much as possible and 80%-90% of it is bad. Yours was a nice surprise as I told you. If people ask me what I think about it, I don't have to force myself to be positive about it. I already said I like the way you go against the grain. I find a bit of myself in it. Anyway, I hope the rumour spreads and people get interested in Screams...I just hope I can continue my mailorder/distro. With this job I have since a few months (in a hospital), I hardly have time to myself and my interests. I'm so tired at night I can't do much really anymore. I 'm always 'rolling' into various things like tours, projects for other zines, ...too; I'd better concentrate on a few things instead of waiting to help everyone. After my band, my zine TILT is/was the most important thing. I can vent my creativity through it. I haven't been in a band for 5 years now but some people are talking to start something new and I get the 'itch' when we discuss it...I'm also quite negative about the scene-always have been-, I don't see it as a way to achieve the 'big'(anticapitalist) revolution anymore: there are too many assholes, egoists and money grabbing bastards involved. For alot of people its just a 'rite de passage' (a stage they go through), only a few people really care. I try to make the best out of it for myself, it has brought me so much already: self confidence, new ideas, 'friends' from all over the world, etc. and its a place where I still find likeminded souls. That doesn't mean that I let go all little things that annoy me just like that. On the contrary, I keep spouting my mouth off about things I'd like to see changed. I bother bands, labels, ...that wanna be big, but also people I work with in our collective that take the DIY-ethic lighthearted to my idea e.g. Yeah, it also doesn't make me very popular, on the contrary but I'm not in all this to be popular. I wanna change things and if that means I have to go against the grain, I'll do it. Some people also sometimes put me on a pedestal (look up to me) because I try to be consequent, but I don't like that either. Maybe it's got something to do with my age(33) and have being around so long. It's strange to some of them but I sometimes feel more comfortable with kids of 18-28 than with people my age in the family-house-car-routine. Alot of kids are very mature and have interesting things to say(especially in the DIY scene); some are just following trends but there's still enough to raise my interest. I do learn from them. I also learn quite a bit from all these women getting more and more involved. Years ago, I can't recall, there were so much women involved. They were there but now there seem alot of them to come out and do things, I can't but welcome that. It ads a gentler touch, a more humane feeling to this scene.....You could be right about men mostly talking about technical aspects of our music in their zines(recordings, tours, bands,...) . There are some exceptions though. Myself, too, I try to discuss political/personal things when interviewing a band. The new issue will have some columns too, but interviews have always been my main thing. There's always a considerable personal input in them though. I try to get across my own ideas/opinions between the lines. What zines do you like? Any good ones you can suggest to me? You can read my list which US ones I knew(I like Too Far, Not Even, Screams..., Fenceclimber, Pearl,..)Have you ever read Simba, it's done by a 'friend' of mine from the UK: Vique, she's really intelligent and her writings are very thought provoking. Another one I like is Shag Stamp and over here in Belguim I dig Superfluous and Bonds of Friendship.
If you feel like it maybe you can tell a bit more about yourself on a next occasion....Are you working or studying? Where do you live? What other interests do you have? What bands do you listen to? What'd you like or dislike about bands/gigs in your area? Where do you stand concerning the seemingly international divide between sxe and crusties? Are you politically active? What else do you do in your spare time?
Ask whatever you want to know about me. For a start I can tell you I work as a lab technician in a hospital. I used to work at a university but got fired, was on the dole for a while and had quite some financial and bureaucratic problems because of that. I was born in a small town call Tidt where I lived till I was 23, studied here in Gent and I'm living here cause its bigger and people are not so narrow minded. There's a university here and lots of students so I see a lot of people. I'd like to find a job here at the university (the old one was in Brussels) but funding for research is very poor because of the economical recession here in Belgium. I used to be very active in an antifacist organization called 'Blokbuster' (against the 'Vlaams Blok', an extreme right part over here) but because of my job and lack of time I had to cut that. I still help out every now and then; my brother (a student in political sciences) keeps me updated, he['s still active in it. My sister is a psychiatric nurse, she's still living in my hometown....
Well, I'll keep it to that, don't know if you're interested in all this. Take care and write whenever you feel like it,
Bart 'Brob'van bra Brandt(Belguim)

Carissa,
Hi! Thanks for your zine. I really enjoyed it, especially the "Carissa Ramblings" part. I guess because alot of the frustration you are feeling, I can also totally relate to. Your ideas on hardcore, how people believe they can tell you how you, yourself, feel, and the anonymous article entitled "lame, lame, lame" Really hit home. Where I live there is a really big hardcore scene. Now, I have never drank/smoked/taken illegal drugs in my life, but I also never preach about how sxe I am. I hate the "I'm tougher, more sxe than you" attitudes, and I am disgusted with the violence at the shows. I'm sick of not even being able to dance without being shoved or kicked into the back row. And, like you, I hate how these regular guys-who just happen to be in a sxe band-are looked upon as gods. Why? Our whole scene is so male dominated its unbelievable. In the zine, Nicole and I wrote about the problems, feelings we were dealing with, and then a few

letters

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males said we were too feminine. Excuse me, but I am a female. I cannot pretend to be a man and write about masturbation or whatever else a man's deepest thoughts are about if I, myself, am not a man. I can't figure out what is wrong with writing about the feelings/problems women go through. I understand that most men cannot relate, but many times I can't relate to all their ranting either. That's just how life is. I'm sorry I'm going off on a rant, but things like not respecting a woman and her abilities/ideas really makes me frustrated. .Not all guys are like that, but the ones that are really make me mad. Anyway, I would appreciate if you could review my zine Gyrate in your zine. Just stick my address on, since Nicole won't be here. Thanks! I'll be looking forward to hearing from you in the near future. Take Care, Renee.

Dear Carissa,
Hi, I've been reading S.F.I#3 last night and found it a pretty enjoyable read(except for the somehow "poor" interviews but I'm bad in doing them myself so...) Especially the stories and your opinions. Alot of them really expressed my feelings toward hardcore as well, how much I hate majors taking over our scene, the mtv influence and so called 'alternative music'....I just get as sick of it as you do. As for the sxe movement, I don't know how it is in the US, in Europe its a two-sided thing, a part is just the typical macho stuff, others (including myself) have a born against sxe type thing going on. I think sxe is 100% a personal choice like music is one or what you eat, clothes you wear, ...its a choice! Only, I still call myself sxe simply because I think it's no good if the clever kids leave sxe cause of the stupid machos. At the end only the macho's are left and everyone will hate it. I think it's time that some clever, open-minded folks take back the sxe!
oh well, enough said about sxe, its a choice-no more or less.
I also wanted to react on your review of the Blindfold 7", what you said there is completely wrong! Blindfold is no hardline vegan sxe religion band. Not everyone in the band is vegan, they have nothing in common with hardline, they're pro-choice and they hate religion like no one else does around here(except for me...I hate it more!). Blindfold is a totally open-minded sxe, they don't care what bands they play with, they don't ask high show prices, they work their asses off to support the whole scene, sxe or not, for years. Basically I found the review of their single a slap in their face, it's totally not what they are at all.
Also, I do their next 7" and I can tell you that if they were hardline I wouldn't never ever do their record cause I fuckin hate hardline!
On the otherside, yes-some of Nation On Fire were rather naive or silly...I can say so cause I played in that band for three years. Well Hope something made some sense. Keep up with your zine cause its really damn good. Love Jeroen(Belguim).
ps. I hate victory records, earth crisis, and atlantic records.

Dear Carissa,
What's up? Here, everything is not so good. School started two days ago, and I hate it! The pressure, the people.. I feel so lonely there. I don't have a friend from school, except one boy, who is a cool guy, but he only studies math with me. In the summer vacation I traveled alot to visit my friends, but now, because of school, I wouldn't see them much, and many of them will go to the U.K.. or Europe for the fall, and some will even begin their military service (fuck! I hope they'll escape from this quickly). Fortunately, it's my last year, and it's a short year(We'll go to school until the middle of April, and then, will study at home for final exams). On September 5th New Years Eve will take place and my dad will give me, as a present, 25$ to buy Youth of Today and Gorilla Biscuits cd's from Revelation and it's good, and make me feel much better. Anyway, thanx for the zine. And I have to admit, the MRR reviewer was right. It's so fuckin' good. I loved it. Especially the personal parts, which expressed my feelings very well (I'm talking about the columns about the violence at gigs, about the alternative music) and made me realize that I'm not alone. I sent you a split tape between two Israelian Hardcore bands. I hope you'll like it. If you want you, you can review it. I am working on a comp tape (I think that I've already told you about it), which will be out in a month. When I finish with it, I'll produce a tape for a hardcore/reggae band, and a split tape of two bands of Russian new immigrants. I hope that everything will run good, so that next year we will be able to make a cd.

You asked if I am originally from Israel. The answer is yes. My grandparents come to Israel from Poland as Holocaust refugees. In November this year I'll go with 30 people from my grade at school to visit in Poland. Hell, records and cd's here are so cheap and its important to visit in the camps, ya know, to see the past, and not to let it happen again. How old are you? Just wanted to know. Ok, gotta go for the babysitting now, to make some money for buses. Enjoy the tape and write back soon. Yours, Karen (Israel)

Dear Carissa,
I picked up your zine at Oarfolk, and I liked it enough that I wanted to write after reading it. I'm not really into sxe or hardcore, and I'm rather ignorant about those scenes. Up until last fall I thought it was all j˙st punk, but the more I go to shows and meet people involved in the edge scene, the more it seems like hardcore has evolved into another species entirely. These people are speaking in a language, which I cannot understand. We may meet at certain points (I guess Dischord bands still connect punk and hardcore fans..) but I just don't understand what all this emo posturing is about. Maybe you can explain it to me. I'll admit that I am ignorant, but it seems that sxe is primarily a small town/suburban thing...I can understand how people can be in bad situations, where they had to deal with alot of dysfunctional alcoholic behavior, but I don't think sxe is dealing with that in a positive way. It's reacting to stupid macho bullshit with more macho bullshit. Back in the 80s when I first got into punk, there was a lot of positive feeling and action, coming out of the fact that nuclear war was a very real and immediate threat, and people had more on their minds than just trying to prove how "hard" they were...If what I've heard is true, the old sxe folks got involved in alot more community/activist kinds of stuff, but things seem to have degenerated since then. Krishnas? Prolifers? Champion sweatshirts-what the fuck? There is a sick, herd mentality that goes with sxe that disturbs me to no end. I know this sounds pretentious, but I think that alot of that stuff comes out of living in a sheltered environment in which right wing bullshit gets internalized and given a new face. I'm all for animal rights and what-not, but it's become a fetish for some people. In my mind the hooded hordes are alternative jocks, and the attitudes they are cultivating are similar to those of fascism in its crudest, most basic form. I have no interest in watching tough guys flex their muscles, or get so emo they can't control themselves at shows. I find most hardcore to be formulative and boring. I find the attitudes ugly and ideas uniformed. These **boys** had it easy(most of them). What right do they have to get in people's faces? Are these guys really so angry or are they just waiting for someone to tell them where to put their fists? I don't do drugs or drink much, but that decision isn't my life. I'm glad sxedgers aren't fucking doing it., but shouldn't they be doing more than just shouting about everything they're against? So now the trend is to be vegan. I guess if you've never had to deal with hardship, or racism, than saving fuzzy bunnies seems like a noble cause. I consider that a class privilege, but who am I to talk? The basic ideas are good, but we don't need more religious nuts running around who think they've got a monopoly on the truth. Like I said, I don't understand this movement. What happened to make hardcore and punk seem so very far apart? Maybe if I read mrr religiously I'd understand this, but silly me-I don't. All I know is the hardcore/sxe shows I've gone to have had a completely different feel to them from when I've gone to see bands like Spitboy, Bratmobile, or Citizen Fish. oh well, send me #4 when it comes out. peace, Erik

Dear Carissa,
Hi. My name is Michael. I received your zine #3 through Ebullution. I read it a couple of months ago and really liked it. Yesterday, I decided to read it again and decided to write you.
I .too, am lonely. I have one true friend that I really like. I don't hang out with anybody else. I like to go to shows with him. He respects me and truly cares. No one else does. Other people will say hi and ask how I'm doing, but they don't care.
The scene in Little Rock sucks with a major cool club. They think that only they can listen to hardcore or punk. If I wear my Rorschach shirt they look at me like who does he think he is? He's not even in a band or does a zine. Actually, I am working on a zine called Rugburn, but will probably change the name. I'm not going to pass it out at shows or kiss anyone's ass and become cool club myself. Back about two years ago a group of kids, who were nobodies in the scene, formed a band and kissed all the cool club's asses. Now they are part of it. They are really good, but that doesn't make them better than anybody else. Some of them are nice though.
At shows I don't go upfront so everybody will see me. I stay at the back. I don't care what anyone thinks. When the scensters get to the show, they go upfront, infront of everybody, even if someone was already there, just so everyone will see them and go, "he's so punk, I wish I was like him. I get looked down upon for not kissing anyone's ass. I hardly talk to anybody. people say, "that kids not punk cause he doesn't say hi to ....
I don't think I'm better than anyone else its just that they aren't much better either. They have high set egos and want toe popular. Well, where they were rejected by others they found acceptance in the scene and now they reject others. They are no better than the macho jocks of the conservatives that rejected them when they were younger. Why should anyone look up these assholes? How come there are no cool club girls unless they are their girlfriends? There is also alot of homophobia in our scene. It isn't out in the open, but it is in their heads. Not everybody, just part of some bands and people. One kids that I was friends with last year started talking about how this kid in his English class was gay, I was offended. I 'm not homosexual, but it makes me extremely angry when people are so ignorant. I asked him "what's wrong with that?" and he said," cause he likes men". He said, "what if he looks at me and gets turned on". I said," so what". He feels just like you. If someone treats you bad it'll hurt so why do that to him? Recently some of the little rock sxe kids went gay bashing. . Fuck them. They, also, down people physically for doing drugs and smoking. I do not agree with their militarism, but their ideas are good-but not when you treat someone else bad. I think you should be sxe for yourself only, not for the sake of your friend being sxe. Most of'em all did drugs a while ago.
I go through alot and feel isolated from everybody. When I turn 18 I will leave this city, but I think they all will suck, no matter where I go. This is what life is: a big disappointment. I want a pen pal or something so if you or anyone you know wants to write me, please do! I want to have someone to care about if you can help, thanks. Micheal o'Connor 6523 kenwood rd Little rock, Ar 72207

thanks for writing

Dillinger Four

Universal Order Of Armageddon

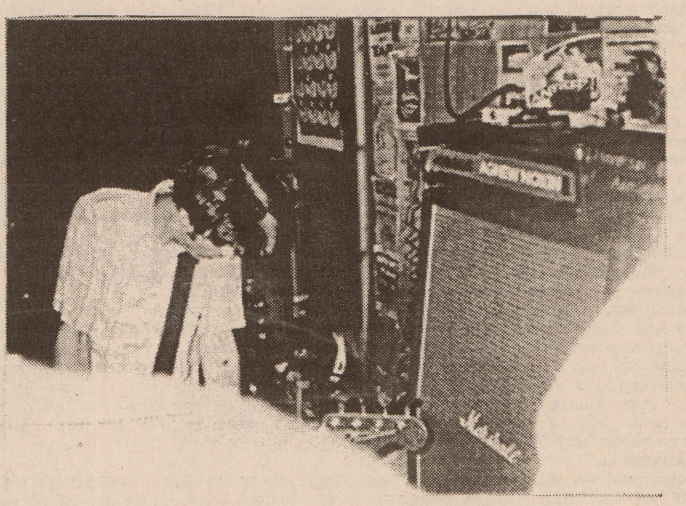
Interview with Colin Seven, singer

Carissa: What is the Universal Order of Armageddon?
Colin: as far as the implication of the name, or what it actually is?
Carissa: what it is?...than the implication of the name.
Colin: Well, its a band. For the most part it doesn't extend past the boundaries of a band. We each have personal ideals of what the name is as far as the statement of a name, it is nothing more than a band. Its a band title: My personal interpretation of the name UOOA is different than what anyone else in the band would say. My personal interpretation is: Armageddon is biblically speaking; the immediate end of the world. Everything just comes down. And, alot of people think that's the way its gonna happen. Its just going to end. But, what most people don't realize is that it happens everyday, constantly, things are constantly breaking, constantly malfunctioning, not working properly, not built properly, you know, your bike gets a flat tire, your car doesn't start, whatever. Everyone experiences Armageddon constantly, day by day, hence the Universal Order of Armageddon. There's a certain pattern to it. There's a certain pattern to things breaking down.
Carissa: Do you think it all goes in a straight line? or is it more a circular pattern? Going back, forth, worse, or better?
Colin: I'm not speaking geometrically or logistically about patterns. I just mean that at some point everyone experiences Armageddon on a continuous basis. It could be circular, it could be parallel lines, it could be one straight singular, it could be a spiral, whatever, regardless of your geometric outlook on it. Everyone experiences Armageddon. That's all. Is that a bad answer?
Carissa: no, that's a rad answer.

Colin: cause I can make something else up if you want. We were sittin around one night drinkin some beer.....
Carissa: What prompted you to start this band?
Colin: Um, I've known Tony, the guitarist, for quite some time and he's been familiarized with my writing. He was in a band some years ago called MOSS ICON, and I was a big fan of MOSS ICON and our drummer was in a band called FAN OF THE FIFTH COLUMN. The bassist and I have been, not only cousins, but in various other bands, and it just so happened that Tony was working on something with Brooks that required a vocalist and a bassist , and we all thought that we can fill the spots, and we filled the spots. At first, I don't think we had any idea what we were getting into, but then as we grew together as people and realized that our personalities, our outlooks, were not necessarily the same, but compatible. We solidified with what you would call a band. I, personally, believe that a band is more than the musical aspect. In definition a strong tight group.
Carissa: like a personality?
Colin: a marriage, you know
Carissa: yea, but a marriage almost produces another "person"
Colin: precisely, that's what happened over a period of time. We became a person. At first it was, "hey lets get together and try to do some music," and then we realized that was personal potential involved. That's when it really started cruising.
Carissa: What is UOOA about? What are your songs about?
Colin: The band is about music. The band is about making sound. I write the lyrics. The lyrics are derived from either stories and/or pieces I've done that when I hear the music they produce, when I hear the sounds, it inspires me to alter the structure of my stories or my ideas....to fit the sounds that they are producing and every story, every piece is different, every line is different. It all has different meaning to me. Personally.....
Carissa: So its all personal.
Colin: Its all personal. Yea. The lyrics are all personal. Let me make this really clear to the people that might be reading this. Um, the lyrics and the music are very separate, yet, at the same time., cannot exist without each other. I could not write or alter what I have written in the fashion I do without the sounds that are created by them as a band, and there are instances that they cannot function musically without the addition of lyrics, and their motives, their inspirations, and their drive, as it were, is probably much different than mine is. You know, the reason that Scott plays bass, Brooks plays guitar all vary vastly. You know. My motives for writing are completely different. My main motivation has nothing to do with singing. I can't sing. I can't sing a fucking note.
Carissa: Is it an emotional release?
Colin: No, its not an emotional release. Its just me yelling about things I've written about. I release emotions in different ways. To me, singing, or vocalizing, or chanting, or whatever, arguing is interaction with my brethren. Having nothing to do with anyone but me and the people that are creating the sounds. Its very self indulgent, yet at the same time, there are attempts at bringing everyone into what we are doing. Spreading ourselves out to everyone else. Painters paint. Poets poem. People people. whatever whatever. And It'd be nice to say that everyone does everything for everyone else but its not true. Everyone has a self centered self drive.
Carissa: yea, but there are some people who have more of that
Colin: yea, of coarse, definitely
Carissa: I mean there is a point that they get selfish, that's just survival, but there are some people who feel better when they give things, and some people who feel better when they can get something.
Colin: oh, yea. I'm not denying the fact that giving is comp..what are we talking about... Anyway, UOOA produce something that means something to us, and, hopefully, somebody else can get something from it. Cause that would be nice. No grand message. If you took a detailed look at every song. You could find meanings, you could find messages. But , really, the most important aspect of the band is the deliverance of the band. does that make any sense? I'm just speaking rationally. I'm not trying to play devil's advocate, but how was it like for you to grow up as a white female in America?
Carissa: ah
Colin: yea, you either give this dead pan rational answer or you dive headfirst into the millions of experiences, and you've got to transcribe this and type it and stuff. I'm just trying to be nice. I can talk about this fucking van for six hours. I can fill four tapes up full of stories about this van, of today, all having to do with lyrics, drums, guitar heads, guitar string, silk-screens, everything.....
Carissa: What do you describe yourself as musically? What are you trying to accomplish?
Colin: We practice and I'll stand there and look, thinking, "what the fuck are they doing?" Its so out of control. Everyone in the band is trying to do what they cannot absolutely, physically or mentally do and they are trying to do that the best they can. so you get this. You get massive frustration. Here, I'll interview you, what do you get?

Carissa: excitement, frustration, ah....
Colin: How was it like for you to grow up in America as a white woman?
Carissa: Terrible, I lived in an all black neighborhood.
Colin: an all black neighborhood. oh, hmmmmm.
Carissa: anyway..
Colin: no, this is really far out. Fuck this band shit. I have had enough of this for one lifetime. So is it because you were like, you felt out of place, did you feel out of place?
Carissa: I always feel out of place. Everywhere I go there's no place for a woman, especially now. Even in the old times there was a place for womyn. Now they don't . Not anymore.
Colin: Womyn had a place in the old time?
Carissa: Woman had a place. Even though you say it is bad. I think that, now, womyn don't have anything they are supposedly good at. Everything that they are considered good at is considered bad/stupid. so everything I do is bad.
Colin: my mom feels the same way. She feels that the deterioration of the family structure has caused this country in alot of aspects to become what it has become.
Carissa: I think its other things like advancements in technology, for example.
Colin: exactly, it all ties in.
Carissa: Before, womyn's role was important because they would have half the farm, they would have to take care of twelve children, they would need to churn butter. It was all considered important. It was all respected. Now most families don't have more than two kids and we can buy margarine at the grocery store. Womyn's roles are not important. That's why, basically you're stuck with everything you do is stupid, everything you do is novel, and everything you do is trying to be like men. I'm not a man. I don't want to be a man. I want to be a woman.
Colin: Yea, for instance, womyn used to have sewing circles, they could all get around, talk about what they wanted to talk about, as womyn, being productive within the family structure. Sewing machines were invented. This is where technology comes in, the sewing circle is broken. Catalogs, the idea of going to the store and purchasing something from the family-like situation was destroyed. Everything was shipped in. The womyn were shipped off to work. The woman becomes "more productive' in the society as a whole.
Carissa: Though in society they have no power. . They are on the bottom of the list, considered nothing, just like everyone else entering the job market: blacks, Hispanics, ect. So what womyn got was a role of being nothing. Second class powerless nothings. Look at the "revolution" in hardcore, everyone dresses like boys. All the womyn act like boyz.
Colin: Can I ask this? Why are you dressed as a boy?
Carissa: I'm wearing pink. I've got a flower sewn to my pants.
Colin: well, I've got earrings in both ears.
Carissa: Yea, but that's the cool alternative thing to do. I used to wear dresses to shows but when I wore then I felt stupid going.
Colin:: Maybe that's why the girls dress in boy's things.
Carissa: Yea, that's why. that's the point. When everything feminine looks stupid in hardcore, then womyn look stupid.
Colin: I was just wondering, but if you believe that, how is it that you can break that? Do you think wearing a dress to a hardcore show could fix that, personally?
Carissa: Didn't do me much good. But, maybe if I do other girls would feel more comfortable doing it. When these things are shown, maybe they will become more acceptable. However, its emotionally more comfortable to wear pants, and every once in a while a band shirt. You are actually taken seriously. I usually try to mix it. I feel more respected. Not like I'm looked down upon. Maybe I'm just paranoid. I guess I've always been the only girl. The only other girls were somebody's girlfriend. I was the only single grrl there. I was always really paranoid cause I was different, plus since I moved to Minneapolis I don't feel really included, I blame it on being a woman. Maybe I make it all up in my head. Maybe I make it all more miserable for myself. I don't know. I really don't.
Colin: How do you think you can change that?
Carissa: I don't know.
Colin: Well, I hope that you're happy doing what you're doing.
Carissa: I'm happy doing my own thing. I'm too much of an individual to function well in a group setting.
Colin: too much of an individual. That's cool. You're talking my language. Not like stark raving, psychopath, secluded piece of shit, but like how does it feel feeling this way?
Carissa: I feel like...You know how groups are. Most people belong to groups. Most people are like soldiers. Most people think along one line and won't go against it..for example, even liberals, they'll think pc. They'll think one line, Christians, they think one line. But they won't differentiate. They won't be hypocritical about it. They won't have their own personal opinion, their own universal belief system. I'd say, well I'll agree with this, but this part, I disagree with that. Because every situation is different. There is no general rule. Always an exception. I just don't feel like I'm part of them. I feel like I think much deeper or they talk on the surface about everything, they talk about consumption all the time. How many 7" I have. I love music and, believe me, I waste a hell of alot of $ on 7", but I hate consumption of music. I hate music being used as something that makes you cooler are better

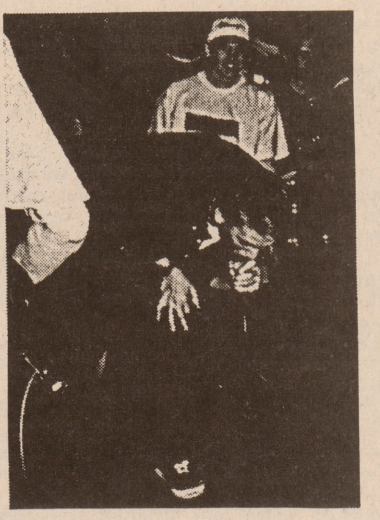
.....well, we went on and on. The tape cut off and we talked about this stuff for 4 hours, thanks Colin.



Threadbare

Edited interview and pictures by Katherine Holm

Katie: I know that all of you have been in bands before, and some of you have played together-Mike and Dustin in Reach and Bloodline, and Carl in Tripwire and Krakatoa. Do you think that this line-up is the best you have been in?
Carl: We all hate each other.
Brian: Our bands have all been in the same genre of music, and we are all friends, but we've never been in a band together before. We all like the same things, and we wanted to accomplish certain things. This is what's worked out best. We kinda planned it, and finally pulled it all together.
Mike: It's something we've always talked about. I never understood why we weren't in a band together. We were in all these other bands. Its just the way things came together--this particular group of people never really had the organization to get together and do it. I think finally we kinda got fed up with all the screwing around with our other bands and we knew that this was the band to do, and that was it. It was a planned thing but it just came together and that was it, it wasn't pre-meditated. We didn't say, "we're gonna be this band, and we're gonna do this, play this kind of music." We just did it.
C: I can't think of any other people I'd rather be in a band with than these guys, cause for one, it works. The music, I love it, and we all work well. But these guys are totally just my best friends.
M: It makes sense to have your best friend in your band with you. You shouldn't have it any other way.
C: Then its not a job. We have so much fun just getting together for practice.



K: Do you feel like you're carrying the weight of any of your previous bands? I know Reach had a huge following...Do you feel weighed down by your previous bands?
M: The music is the top thing for me, the actual music. Harcore music is the most exciting, and of course the lyrics add a very essential part to the music. But it seems like in the scene that we've been involved in before it becomes mundane, everything is going in circles, and nothing new and exciting is happening. I'm not saying that we're this new and exciting thing, but that's been my connection with it the past year or so. I just don't feel comfortable with it. In a way, I feel weird about playing shows, because I don't feel like part of it. Its like, "Oh come see us, come see our band." Its like a double-standard.
M: I think a lot about problems I used to have with my old bands, but I use that to deal with this band. So its not like I feel the weight of the other bands. This is what I'm most comfortable with, this is the band I want to deal with. And I don't have to worry about these guys. I don't think that these guys aren't gonna be around next year. The friends from my other bands I don't every talk to anymore.
CH: We're dedicated to a point, but its not something that's just gonna fall apart or go away easily.
M: Everybody knows where everybody stands with this band. We all know if one person's out the band is done. I don't feel any stress about having to keep this band together.
K: What is the most important aspect of your band?
C: I think the message is. Musically its great, but what it says to me....A lot of music I listen to can be hard and energetic, but if its talking about something meaningless....I think Brian just says it for everyone. It kinda fits our feelings. He picks up the vibe from the song, takes it, and comes out with what its supposed to mean. That's what gives it the emotion for me, that's why I love it so much. What he talks about is so perfect.
K: Do you write about a lot of personal issues, Brian?
B: Just a lot of the things I find myself stumbling upon. That could keep me going for years.
D: I think this band is important because we know each other. I know that its 100% legitimate between all of us, that we all feel the same desires, and those desires are not to make ourselves better than anybody, its just a release for our problems. Catharsis is basically what happens. I have trouble when I bands whose music or message I really like, but when you see that they're not truly what they said. I don't mean some kind of political issues, but just the fact that you see people that are just trying to be stars. That's not a goal with us at all. Hopefully, people will relate to us because that will make us feel less alone, but we have each other, so that's what's really important.
K: Do you think a lot of people in the scene here can relate to you? How does the crow come across to you when you're up there?
D: I never look, but I sometimes see a video. I hope people can relate, but I have a lot of trouble with people who get really violent. That's not what this is about at all. We want people to feel it emotionally. I have nothing to prove to be macho or anything, because that's just bullshit to all of us. I hate to see that stuff, so I hope when people enjoy the music they can personalize it, instead of trying to become the show. I hate to see people hurt, and I hope people don't come to see us just because the music is hard or

loud, or see us trying to be tough guys, because that's not what we are, and that's something that I personally hate. My whole life I've not been a macho guy, and its made my life tough because I'm not living up to certain standards of being male. But that's fine with me, because I don't want anything to do with them. I hope people don't see us as typical macho males.
C: People often ask us, "Why do you sound so angry?" And its not that we're angry at anything other than the things that make us feel that. Its just anger and frustration at the things we do to ourselves that make ourselves feel bad. Why did this have to be?
B: I can understand why people say that themselves, and think, "Why aren't you doing the same?" But nobody can say that they don't go through life feeling like this.
M: I don't want to bother other people with my problems. Everyone has their own way of dealing with stress, basically this is the way I deal with mine. Its so hard to put into words. Its just a release of everything, everything I feel everyday comes out in the music. I don't even have to be playing. When I listen to the tape, its the same way, I get that same feeling. I have absolutely nothing to prove in this band. Its more of just proving things to myself. Everyday I sit and worry about this or that, but I know that I have this one thing. This is one thing I've got in my life that makes sense to me, that answers all my questions, and puts everything into perspective. Seriously, its the one thing that I hold onto that's important to me. I can't say that I put my faith in anything other than that. This is my crutch, if you want to call it that. Everybody has their own way of putting things into perspective, like I said, and this is the thing that does it for me. This is the one thing in life that makes sense to me. I don't have to ask questions about it.
D: I hope when people see a band like us they get a feeling where maybe they don't feel so alone. Because when we're off where ever we live, we feel alone, but we look forward to getting together and sharing....Its hard to explain what I mean. When people see us live, I hope they can understand and relate in some way, because I know there are lots of people who feel the same way as us.
C: A while ago we wrote this statement about our thoughts and reactions to the way life is, but its also a celebration of what human potential can be. I don't want to sound cheesy. We're all into philosophy and psychology, and we think about what makes people feel miserable or good. We're just trying really hard to find out what makes us feel good and bad, and talk about it instead of going out and talking about....
CH: When we have practices, we end up talking for hours. We talk more than we play, actually. We talk about problems, we have a good time.
M: I don't question my happy feelings. When you're happy things go right by you. You don't question things. That's how I feel about it. But when you're angry, you've got a thousand things hammering in you head, a million things you want to say, but can't put into words. That's what the band is to me. I like
to be stupid and act really dumb. be completely obnoxious, but that comes naturally, just as much as being frustrated. For some odd reason, I like to focus on anger and stress. I don't understand it myself, but I think so much about being angry, being pissed off, hating people.....I can't help it
D: I think we're basically happy, goofy, dorky people , and the reason why we're so frustrated and get so angry is that, in our society, you have to step on people, and that';s not what we want to do. That's where the anger and frustration with other people comes in--like working a retail job, I'm sure lots of people can relate. You have a good attitude, and you want to help people, but people take out all their frustration on you because they're not happy. So the anger is a big cycle. It hits everyone. If you see anger in what we're saying, its just the frustration at the fact that you can't be yourself, you have to please other people all the time.
CH: That's what makes me the most angry, just not being able to do what I really want to do. I'm not really myself at all, I'm shaped by everyone else. It frustrates me because I think about it quite a bit. when It comes down to it, I'm not doing what I really want to do. You have to work, you have to make money, and that keeps you from being able to do everything you want to do. You get stuck.
D: At our age, too, basically all you have to look forward to is being enslaved, until you're too old to enjoy life.
CH: Like tonight, I feel tense around people, real uncomfortable. This whole show I felt uncomfortable. I don't know why sometimes, its hard to explain...
D:It hurts to see people we've known for years, and there isn't the relationship there once was. It makes me uncomfortable. There were a lot of people here tonight I've known for years, and I haven't talked to them. Its not because I don't want to, but there's so many things that have come between us. People have all these notions of us, of what we're into and what we believe, but they should know that we're still the same people, really. Maybe some frustration has built up over the years, but we can still relate to them.
K: Do you think a lot of people that come are just scene-hoppers?
B: To me it seems really bad, especially since I don't live here. I come up here, and see these people who are my friends, and we have share d experiences, but like tonight I can barely talk to them, and it just sucks. I feel so bad, but I haven't really changed, and I'm not going to change just to please somebody else. Its not worth it. I hope people can learn its not worth killing yourself to try and please others, you should try to please yourself. You should change yourself to make things positive in your society.

Record Reviews(*****made me want to stay alive, ****beautiful, nice to listen to, nice ideas, ***ok, **bad sound quality, ideas, reason for doing this, *no)

Some days I'm worried about having a nervous breakdown. Sometimes I get more nervous than others, and just feel like I'm ready to scream, especially if I'm alone. Like sometimes at night I'm sitting here and I just feel like I'm ready to scream. I'll put the music on to listen to that, or I'll sing to the records, just something to do, so that you're not talking to yourself. I think it helps. It helps me. I don't know if it would anyone else, but I'll just put the records on and I'll sing along with the records. Some people think I'm soft but it really helps me.

*****Avail "dixie" lp** You know this is good. Why are you reading this? You probably have this already. In case you are stupid enough not to have bought it already, its faster than the last one(lookout)
****Mouthpiece "what was said" lp** You know what to expect when you buy this one. Just the same old sxe you just can't help but to hum to yourself all day long.(new age)
***Cornerstone demo** Just the same old school sxe. Hey guys, do something new. Why must the scene remain so stagnant? I have millions of records like this one. Why another? We need new ideas, not living in the past. The pieces of the puzzle no longer fit, move on.
****Lincoln 7"** Emo with rough vocals. Cheerful, upbeat. Can't help but to love this one. Sort of got a still life feel to them every so often. Lots of changes(Artmonk)
*****Lifetime "tinitus" ep** Poppy hardcore. Overall their best release. Much faster, upbeat than 12" and 7". If you like lifetime definitely get this, if you don't, get it anyway. You're in for a nice surprise. (glue)
*****Threadbare 7"** Minneapolis's pride and joy emo band. Very talented musicians. This is so fucking incredible. They can pull you into such tension and than release it all(Watermark)
***Dumpster Juice/Godplow split** Dumpster juice was an attempt at hardcore. However, it didn't seem to flow very well. Godplow had the more AmRep feel, which is typical of Minneapolis bands. I liked Godplow more. (Spanish Fly/227)
Dick Delicious and the Tasty Testicles 7" With a name like this, its got to be good, Huh, maybe not. They try to gross you out and be punk. So, if you're into gross sex shit which degrades womyn, you'd like this(Spanish Fly)
****Manumission 7"** Pretty decent hardcore with an annoying singer. Lyrics are really cool, especially the song distance, which is about the line between the sexes, and how all womyn think men suck and the singer of manumission thinks he's different and thinks the line should be discussed. Also, the insert has several inspiring characters in history hoping to show that people who act on their own beliefs are an inspiration not only in what they say, but also, how they live their lives. (Ebullution)
****Kerosene 454 7"** Comparable to Hoover. Poppy sound with personal lyrics(ArtMonk)
***The Cold War Hardcore Compilation 7"**None Left standing starts off with a song about the gulf war. Everlast played the typical sxe song. Mean Season played a live version of "Sea of Shame." I hate live stuff so I didn't like it much even though its a good song. Within a Lie sung a song about how men don't see womyn they are involved with as humming beings, but rather, possessions. Didn't make sense when they said womyn are seen as solely as objects absent of emotions. I see it the other way around. Maybe he's right. Who knows what men think. (Foresight Records/Stability Records)
*****Burn "live at CBGBs" 7"** this is clear vinyl with a screen printed cover. Though I'm not a fan of live bootlegs, this one turned out pretty good. There were only 500 made so if you can get ahold of one. Get it.
***Floodgate 12"**Only 5 songs on this. The songs and music is similar to still life with a more punk feel. The vocalist kind of bugs me at times, and the lyrics don't make any sense. Otherwise, pretty good release. (Ebullution)
****Struggle 12"**Beautiful inserts and packaging. The 12" is much like their last 7", very good. However, it has more speaking parts. (Ebullution)
*****Vanilla 7"** "Sorry for the fear that shines in my eyes. I dream..."Very emo French band much like downcast. I highly recommend this. (Laissez-nous Jover)
****Scraps "Dismantle the Machine" cd Singer** of Nations on Fire also sings for this one. A tad better than typical sxe hardcore(Xmist/Riedwiese)
***Huggybear 10" "Taking the rough with the smooth"**Grrl/boy revolution music. Lyrics are much like things I would write in my journal. Music is raw and full of life(kill rock stars)
***Avail 10" "live at the king heads inn"**I didn't like this much. Mainly cause I already have all the songs on vinyl, but also this proved my theory that live versions just suck. There is one good point to this record. They covered kiss off into the air-violent femmes(Old glory records)
*****God's Chosen People Comp** good one by avail, Elizabeth hertz reminded me of the UKsubs, Askance had hardcore feel to it. Puzzlehead is poppunk, I liked that song. Navil Nod played really slow music with this guy talking, good one by Roarschach, Groove sounded alot like G-Whiz, good Iconoclast, Greyhouse is very fugazi, discord, and also good BornAgainst(Old Glory Records)
****Born Against/Man is a Bastard 10"split** Man is a bastard totally sucks: really slow weird shit, with growling vocals. Born Against, of course, totally rules, but they are one of my favorite bands so I'm pretty impartial as it is. (Vermiform)
*****Doc Hopper "ahola"lp All** star line up from Beafeater and some others. I forgot. But anyway, even if you don't like pop punk, you'll love this. It makes you happy to be alive. Also has a cover of go-go's song "head over heels"(Ringing Ear Records)
****Junction "swingset"** The band is very similar to Ashes because they both have excellent female vocalists. However, Junction has faster more interesting music to back it up. Overall, better than Ashes(ArtMonk)
***Blindfold "Restrain the thought"lp** Lyrically they are still a good band, but for some reason I didn't like this release as much as the 7". The singer's voice was too whinny, and the music too slow. (conquer the world)
****Mind Over Matter lp "security"**I guess they don't know. Kind of a mix between Rollins and Quicksand. Ny style hc. I do like this band (wreckage)
*****Unbroken "Life, love, regret"** They don't care if I like them or not. Well, I guess that's why this album is so amazing. Hard, beautiful. Not like typical sxe bands, something different, something wonderful (new age)
****Heroin lp** strange record. Real rough and unstructured. Lots of breaks short and long. for some reason it didn't appeal to me.(gravity)
*** Gits "enter: the conquering chicken"** This record was put out when their singer was mysteriously killed. It pretty much sucks except for the songs from their previous 7"s. Comes with a nice booklet in memory of the killed singer, record is on white vinyl, you get a sticker, nice packaging. (c/z records)
****Fountainhead "Drain"lp** Do all bands from NY sound like Quicksand? Well besides the typical Quicksand influence this is pretty good, much better than when I saw them live at the More than Music Festival 93' (Doghouse)
*****Jawbreaker lp "24 Hour revenge therapy"**Their last lp was rather slow and depressing, but this three some must be in better spirits with songs like "I want to be a boat" Can't help but to love this one.
****Farside "Rigged" lp** much better than previous release. Good sound quality and easy to listen to. Not spectacular, but something you find yourself listening to over and over anyway (revelation)
***Snapcase "looking glass self"lp This** is pretty simple, slow, and overrated. Its simplicity makes it easy to remember and for some reason this record brought about a whole lot over other bands who tried to do the same thing.(Victory Records)
****Face to Face "no authority"ep** poppy as poppy gets. Relatively good lyrics nice beat you can dance to.
***Ironside 7"** This sucks.
*****Falling Forward cd** There is something amazing about this band. Heavy emo. The singer has an amazing voice, the lyrics fit to everyone's pitiful life. This is so rad. It got me through all my troubled times.
*****Fabric 7"** Song about wanting to be yourself and not wanting to lose your identity through another individual. I disagree. I think that if you truly

yourself you wouldn't be afraid to lose yourself through another. Even though I disagreed with my interpretation of the song I still thoroughly enjoyed this 7". Emo hardcore from the Uk. The best emo-hardcore I've heard. (Doghouse)
****NoneLeftStanding ep** This band is amazing. However, the recording of this seven inch leaves their sheer wonder to be questioned. Its still good. You still scream with the singer, "how can you live with yourself."
****Deadguy ep** Old No Escape and Roarchach. Yea this is pretty fucking good. Liked it better than Roarchach.
***Garden Variety** lp Sounds like dinasaur junior with a more punk rock feel(GlennBlandstenn)
*****Ringworm** "the promise"lp This is incredible. Has the integrity sound you expect. Jason Parker was right this is scary.(Dutch East India)
*****Current/Chinohord** split ep I expected to like the Chinohord more than the Current, but the Current just ruled. I only had Current's first ep and I think that sucks. They have gotton a hell of alot better since then.
****Antioch Arrow** lp Typical antioch arrow vien. Ofcorse its good just like most other gravity bands you pretty much know what to expect. (Gravity)
****Another Wall** 7" Not as good as identify me 7". Still good, typical doghouse sound. A good record, mine skipped like crazy and I didn't even care. (Doghouse)
****Mean Season** "grace" lp I enjoyed this more than I did the 7". I guess some bands are meant to do lps and some eps. This is a real lp band. The record is really weird and it just sort of flows together(New Age)
****Black Train Jack** "you're not alone"lp Really poppy upbeat alternative/punk. I didn't expect to like this but it kind of grew on me. (Roadrunner)
***Tastes Like Soil** "Matchhead"demo Some swedish band sent me this. Really bad sound quality, really bad all together. Maybe it was a joke.
****Venison** cd Why do these minneapolis indy labels keep sending me this alternative crapt trying to pass it off as punk rock? I want to know. I never get stuff I really want. Well, anyway, this has slight pegboy sound but that is slight. Except for a few good riffs they were pretty typical replacement wanna be's. I hate people that lack the creativity and replicate other bands. What is the point of doing that? Get some stregth, dig up your own road. (Big Money Inc)
****Rust** "numskull" ep/cd This cd I got from Scotland. I like it. Its punk rock that starts off really slow and than they go crazy. Real youthful, innocent feel to it. However, the guitar solos were a little cheezy. (Mental Block Records)
****Nekhei naatza/Public Domain** demo These are two isrealian hardcore bands sent to me by a penpal. Public domain is a very typical misfit old school punk band and Neker Naatza was very simplistic sxe but not in a tough guy macho sxe way. It had a more poppy hardcore feel to it. I really liked them.
***1/2 Blind Rhino** "let there be pain" I got this huge promo pack with pictures and everything. I have to laugh when I get these. Anyway, just like all the promo meterial reflected, this is a metal band. They sounded alot like Metallica. I liked them anyhow, always liked Metallica. (Damage Records)
*****Strife "One Truth"** I was eagerly awaiting the release of this album and suddenly it gets sent to me for free. Can you believe that? Well anyway. This once again is the old school streight vein, much like Judge. I know I say that old school sxe is redundent, but it is still my favorite type of music. This record was fucking increadible. Play a cover of "what will remain", fast, intense, sound. One slow love "ballet" called "where were you?" which made my heart melt. If you're sxe, you've got to buy this. There is no question about it. (Victory)

Falling Forward

Carissa, please forgive me for taking so long to reply. I'm a slacker. I'm going to do the interview that you sent me by myself because I haven't had a chance to do it with the rest of the band and if I don't do it now you'll think I forgot this. Here it is

1.) Why the name falling forward?
I really don't know why we decided on that name. It's just a name, it doesn't really mean anything.

2.)What prompted you and the band to start Falling Forward?What is the band about?What are the songs about?
First of all, we originally got together as friends and just had fun goofing off, but after a short time we decided to get serious. We're a bunch of friends who have fun with what we're doing. we express ourselves through our music. It's a release of emotions. Most of our songs are about Chris's personal experiences. The rest of the band can usually relate to those situations and feelings. This makes it easy for everyone in the band to get our music. Not all of our songs are about personal emotions though.

3.)Who is currently in Falling Forward?
Falling Forward is Jonathan Mobley, Chris Higdon, Gary Bell, Ben Lord, and Pat McClimmans.

4.)What do you describe yourself as musically and what type of sound are you trying to accomplish? We are a hardcore band. We just play what we like and hope that others will like it too.

5.)What is the scene like in Louisville? What good bands?
Right now the scene in Louisville is dead. There is no place to have all ages shows but there are many bands and kids who anticipate the next show. Some of the new hardcore bands are Blangk and Hedge. Some other bands that have been around for a while are Enkindle, Guilt, Lighthouse, The Telephone Man. There are also many others, way too many to list.

6.)What do you think of hardline?veganism?animal rights?sxe?Sexism in hardcore?The way the scene is in general?Is it getting better or worse?
Hardline has a lot of good things about it. I agree with almost everything it stands for but the bad things it stands for really weighs it down. I don't agree with the way most hardline kids choose to get their message across. It's pretty narrow minded as far as I'm concerned. I think veganism is a very positive thing. Chris and I are vegans though some people don't consider us full vegans because I eat honey and neither of us are real strict about it. If I had my own farm I would probably eat eggs and drink milk every once in a while. I just can't let myself eat from a factory farm where so much cruelty takes place.
Personally, I believe that animals are treated unfairly and animal rights is good because it has opened a lot of people's eyes. But, I do believe that no other animal is equal to humans, though they do deserve respect.
I'm sxe. Everyone in Falling Forward has been sxe at one point or another. Some of us don't consider ourselves sxe because of what it has become today and don't want to be a part of it. I personally won't give in. Sexism sucks in hardcore and everything else. Girls upfront! I think the scene has grown a lot. More people are accepting it. It sucks that in hardcore there are so many different cliques though. Overall, it's good but it sucks because there isn't that much unity. It's getting better in some ways but worse in others. It's grown musically, but there are more close minded people.

7.)What bands would you say influence you in your personal life and in your band?
Most of the bands I listen to influence my life in some ways, mostly emotionally. I like many types of music, mostly hardcore of course. Some of my favorite bands would be Quicksand, Splitlip, Endpoint, Into Another, Operation Ivy, and Minor Threat. It would be impossible for me to think of all the bands that I like now. Everyone in Falling Forward likes different stuff. Ben likes punk stuff like Screaching Weasal. He also like motley Crue and the Queers. Gary likes hardcore but he listens to Lynard Skynard too. Pat likes Johnny Cash and Into Another. Chris likes Men at Work, Stone Temple Pilots, and a lot of different hardcore.

8.)What is everything that you've released? Anything new coming up?
We've released a 7" on Noble records and a cd including ten songs on Initial Records. Hopefully we will release a split 7" with None Left Standing.

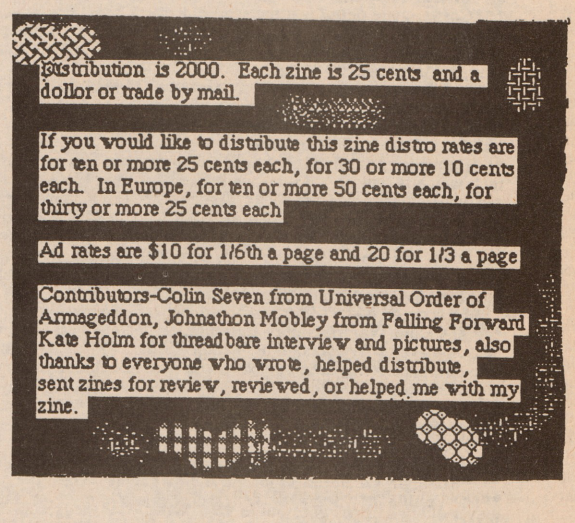
9.)Is this an emo band? Are there are political issues addressed?
We write songs about everything in daily life. Some emotions, some struggles we all have, some about voicing your opinion, just whatever.

10.)How do you feel about fanzines?
I think some zines suck and some are great. Some people just do them for profit, some do it just to help the scene. I might not agree with some of them but that doesn't mean that they're no good.

11.)What is the future of Falling Forward?
Hopefully in the future things will work out well for us. We're going on tour and hopefully we'll write new songs for a new album.

12.)Where do you see yourself in ten years?
As a band, ten years from now I doubt that we'll still be together but if we are, I'll be an old man and we'll probably play gospel music. My girlfriend and I will be an old married couple who bowls every Saturday night for the league. Chris will be an old hermit. Ben will be a professional artist. Gary will have redneck parties and play volleyball. And Pat will just be a dirty old man.

Thanks Carissa. We appreciate your interest in us. Sorry for the delay. John


tastribution is 2000. Each zine is 25 cents and a dollor or trade by mail.
If you would like to distribute this zine distro rates are for ten or more 25 cents each, for 30 or more 10 cents each. In Europe, for ten or more 50 cents each, for thirty or more 25 cents each.
Ad rates are $10 for 1/6th a page and 20 for 1/3 a page
Contributors-Colin Seven from Universal Order of Armageddon, Johnathon Mobley from Falling Forward Kate Holm for threadbare interview and pictures, also thanks to everyone who wrote, helped distribute, sent zines for review, reviewed, or helped me with my zine.

Fanzine Reviews(*****changed my world, ****really good, ***nice layout but not much exciting reading, **not worth it, *basically disagree with and got really angry at)

"So many of us feel forced into silence. Like it protects us. When in all actuality, it just hurts us. Don't let your fear convince you that us wrong or unequal. Use your voice. Speak out." (penny's fanzine)

Fernzine#6***
I laughed, I cried, I was amazed how wonderful this zine was. Contains: many stories of her trips to different parts of the country. I like how emotional and real she is. It makes me feel ok to be as emotional as I am. Things she talks about: roommates, being lonely, a grrl getting raped and she not knowing what to do, about how when you lose someone you keep wanting them to see you and witness what you are seeing, doing, and saying, and how when you wake up in the morning you hope so much to see their face. But you don't and you must forget and move on. Also, an article about how womyn used to be spiritual and mental healers and when the Catholic Church came, they said that these powerful healers were witches and tried to kill them. They killed 9 million womyn. From thereafter, womyn were restricted in every aspect to avoid doom and men became the powerful healers with scientific medicine. box 576 normal, Il. 61761

Penny's Fanzine #2***
A really cute handwritten zine. Its very personal and talks about love, friendship, speaking your mind, Kristin from Janitor Joe, fanzine reviews, A little messy but so sweet. 317 n. Wasson ln Riverfalls, wi 54022-2546

Crosscheck #3 **
zine from Chicago talking about the problems in the Chicago sxe scene. Very anti-scenster zine, but very repetitive. Has a nice layout and cool articles about religion and worrying about the future because the job market is getting so bad. Adam Bishop pobox 151 Bourbonnias, Il. 60914

Underdog #10 ***
Well, it seems as if underdog zine is getting alot of slack from Heartattack and Punk Planet. They get em' back with an incredible issue talking about how the punk scene is nothing more than a market place wit no principles; not much different from those we criticize. Get this! pobox 14182 Chicago, il. 60614

Holiday#6.5 **
I expected to get the typical extremist pro-life vegan stuff from this zine, but I was pleasantly surprised. Talks alot about finding yourself, being yourself through sxe, very good writing, emotional, and intelligent. Didn't agree with the Krishna view. I believe you can take parts of certain religions, political doctrines, and what certain idols of sorts say into your personal philosophy, but when you make that philosophy think for you than you are merely a soldier and no longer an individual. Maybe instead of boasting about how Krishna will save us all maybe he could tell us of the interesting philosophies it offers the sxe, hardcore, and punk subcultures. Furthermore, the word f-u-c-k means "for unsolisitated carnal knowledge" Slang words are merely words with alot of emotional undertones. We should make a fight over them because they are only a symptom, we should try to get at the cause. People don't listen to words. They watch and imitate. The words have no power, the hateful emotions behind them do. The example that media, parents, peers, ect. make makes you who you are. Its a much bigger problem than bad words. 209 east 25th st #1c Minneapolis, MN 55404

Fanzine Reviews(*****changed my world, ****really good, ***nice layout but not much exciting reading, **not worth it, *basically disagree with and got really angry at)

DEHYDRATION FANZINE#4 ****
This was quite unusual. I think it was done by a minority male and it helps to see another perspective in punk that you usually do not see. I especially liked the article "have you ever HAD to do something? Gives a startling picture of what most white middle class punkers ignore. Also, an article about going to the gynecologist being much like rape. The zine had a whole lot by and about womyn, which I found nice.

Fern/Status and Conformity split zine *****
Yes! great personal writings about love and emo-shit. Nothing about bands or anything. Just writing that make you think of yourself.

My letter to the world #6***
I couldn't really understand what this grrl was talking about. There were really long pointless stories written by different grrls which were equally confusing. I did, however, enjoy the interview with the Vinyl Communications guy. He was really inspirational and smart.
2528 Benvenue-Berkley, CA 94704

Words and Letters #3 ****
The guy who used to be in Nations on Fire does this zine and his bitterness and resentment towards the sxe hc scene and his old band basically make the zine, cause you know he's right. This one is not full of the same conformist bullshit
pobox 90 8500 kortrijk Belgium

Clearwater #1***
Tried really hard to hate this zine cause the grrl had total attitude, when I tried to trade zines with her. She wanted me to send her another 2 stamps. She thinks I'm cool but I'm not. I suck big time. Anyway, the zine had very good layout and great personal writings. I also liked what she said about veganism and sexism; very down to earth. 155 milk st. #10 westboro,ma 01581

Greedy Bastard #9 ***
fake interview with earth crisis. I'm a big enough fool to think its for real. Then again, what do you expect. I mean, its earth crisis. Also, contains interview with the queers.

Engine #2***
I find alot of integrity in those that do zines for free. This zine didn't lose that integrity in content. Interview with writer of It's Alive, a zine that's been around 7 to 8 years. The zinester said his grrlfriend died in an auto accident and everything he does goes out to her. Wow. Also, an article by a prisoner in Arizona jail who talks about how its like to be in prison and the prison system. Its really interesting and intelligently written. Finally, an interview with Dan O'Mahoney. (free with 3 stamps)
box 640928 S.F., Ca 94164-0928

Kill the Robot #8***
I found this zine to say alot of things I wanted to say except they were stated in a better context and a less pissed off direct manner as mine. I think the zine stated alot about the deteriorating hardcore scene, and these criticism really need to be said. It was honest. Most zines seemed to just be filled with band photos and bullshit. However, there is one thing I disagreed with. I didn't much like the Simba interview. I hated her adverse attitudes toward womyn and femininity. She said that she didn't consider herself to be better than all other grrls. Funny how those that are oppressed always oppress eachother and take on characteristics of the dominant culture. Thats so weak. They say womyn are the worst jurors in rape trials. We victimize eachother and its got to stop. box296 Yellow Springs, Oh 45387-0296

The Holy church of J Cruelty***
Eighty six 8x11'pages, holy shit. I read this whole zine on the way back to St.Louis from Minneapolis on the bus. It must have taken me at least 3 hours. Anyway, here we have an intellectual type zine that uses alot of historical stories and political theories to bring about better understanding of what the hell is going on in the world. I learned alot from this zine. Most notable is an article about heresy and a group of heretics(cultists) called Gnostic. Alot of anti-religious writing which is a given when you go to a Catholic University and have a brain.

Black ink & white paper#15*
If this isn't the sickest most sexist zine I've ever come in contact with. Talks very "intimately" to say the least of the Beverly Hills 90210 chicks. I think this guy should get layed and get it over with.

Monkeywrench Fanzine#2***
Very nice cover. has a picture of a cow divided into parts depending on what kind of meat comes from those parts. Its color copied. Interviews with Econochrist, show reviews, record/fanzine reviews, thoughts on religion, hardcore, ect.

Inside Front#3***
This zine has alot of information on current scene happenings in New Jersey. Short interviews with EARTH CRISIS, SNAPCASE, BLOODLET, CHOKEHOLD, CHORUS OF DISPROVAL, SPLINTER, 6FT DEEP which went deeper than the typical interview. They talked about what they were about. Earth Crisis sounded like Hitler(not that I have anything against Earth Crisis).

Ah-ah-kay**
handwritten zine that left me rather confused.

Gyrate #1***
Grrl zine: very realistic, down to earth, emo. Has a diary like section with very intellectually discussed parts. I highly recommend this zine. Done by 16 year old which is pretty surprising in this case.

Panophobia***
interviews with POSTERCHILDREN, TSUNAMI, IAN MAKAYE, SLANT 6, HUGGYBEAR, ect all talking about their phobias. Weird. Really weird

Piledriver***
lots of band pictures a few rantings here and there.

Punktar ?
sloven zine written only in slavic so you can't understand it. Otherwise interviews with UK subs, NOFX, and Offspring.

Force Feed**
scene reports, a couple opinions about getting fat, and money,poetry, record reviews, ect.

Bad Food For Thought***
Very down to earth zine. Liked what he said about the homeless. Most people ignore them and give them no respect. Like they're not even human. They refuse to give them $ because they say they just use it to drink. You know, just like all welfare mothers use their welfare checks to buy Cadillacs. Hey, lets get rid of welfare. Anyway, the zine is pretty cool but hard to read cause of all the typing mistakes.

Hardware(spring 1994)***
lets start off by saying that his zine is printed and looks incredible. Typical sxe opinions and writing in first couple pages, record reviews, interviews with DEADGUY, HOLESHOT, BLEED, THREE SUNG SCROLL

XXClear PerceptionXX**
sxedger zine from the UK with good interviews with UNBROKEN, SPAWN, REFUSED, plenty of pictures, articles on hardline.

Entombed mine#3***
I really liked this one. A story called, "I went to the office to join the club" is a story which totally describes sxe's bad side. Also more sxe is bad stuff written and some vegan is stupid stuff. This guy is sxe and vegetarian and he's sick of not feeling included. Otherwise, interviews with JAWBREAKER and RAIN LIKE THE SOUND OF TRAINS.

Dogprint #2 ***
Very thick zine from Italy. Interviews with Snapcase and Engage. lots of pictures, vegetarian stuff, alot of reprints.

Soulstice(A choosy zine) ***1/2
A very pretty looking zine. The cover has a green frog on front. Show reviews of SNAPCASE and CHOKEHOLD/BLOODLET. Also a really cool story by an x-Krishna, and recipes. Madison Hall 736 22nd st. NW #108 Washington, DC 20052

Stifled#3/Inchpin#5 split *****
Stifled was so rad. Very emo rantings that were really intelligent and hit home, especially about sexism. Inchpin was more poetry and stories. 580 commonwealth ave.#24 Boston, MA 02215

Break Mama #2 ****
Really liked this one. Filled with tons of stories about fun things to do, sexism, religion, childhood, rejection by peers, ect.
p.obox 4074 Oceanside, Ca 92052-4074

Wild Honey Pie #9**
Riot grrl zine which is really good. However, I didn't really like the way she went off on "Revolution grrl style" cause when you think about it, if grrls don't support eachother who will? We have been oppressed, why not make out own movement. We don't have a choice in the matter. We have been forced. Kristy 922 ne 17th st. Cape Coral, FL 33909

Jumbo Shrimp #7***
Wow, really liked this issue, more than #6. Meechelle is very down to earth and writes greats stories and articles about minimum wage jobs, boredom, school, and an interview with Guzzard. pobox 667 Prior Lake, MN 55372

Dork Book #1 **
really long stories that go on and on slowly making less and less sense till you say to yourself, "why" All handwritten mini book. box 30 etown, pa 17022

Outback #12 ***
Interviews/soundchecks with 108, Seaweed, Helmet, Farside, Snapcase and Dayspring. Reviews of zines and records. Some opinions/feelings: one being on love and I'm a sap so I liked that one. Talks about trip to d.c. lots and lots of really good band photos. 5255 Crane Rd. W. Melbourne, Fl 32904

Combat "summer 94"***
This is very inspirational. The writer says the income tax, national debt, and federal reserve are all government scams. He copied the pages of this book detailing this information. I thought the issue was important myself so I ordered the information myself and wrote about it in this zine. The writer of this zine seems to have a very interesting viewpoint on the world and politics. He believes in the democratic system that no longer enslaves its citizens in minimum wage jobs and that we can all come together as brothers and sisters. box 20311 Indianapolis, IN 46220

Contrascience #3 *****
First, very good interviews with Propagandi ad the owners of Minneapolis punk rock store, Extreme Noise. Propagandi talks about the Canadian government being just as bad as the US government. Also, about the trouble they had with distro giant, Cargo records. Alot of anti-war pictures which were really cool. Some writings on famous artists. A very interesting article on capital punishment. I learned that capital punishment doesn't lower crime or the cost of keeping criminals in jail. It costs more in the appeal process and paper work to put a prisoner to death than keep them alive. It, also, makes violence acceptable and we forget criminals are actually human beings. Violence is violence nomatter who switches the button, and it is dangerous to give government that power. Finally, a story about racism. I found this a very intellectually written zine. Brian Alft 2131 80th st. s Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Little Pieces of Tape #1 ****
A really cute story about the relation between marbles and identity. Also, a story that tells you what punk is really about. A story about loving someone and dumping him harshly and than realizing how mean you have been and there is nothing you can do to get them back. huh, deserved it. Overall pretty good. Further Beyond 1210 Gregory Place Downers Grove, Il. 60515

Q Value #3 *****
All personal thoughts zine listing his personal thoughts numerically. Talks about #1, how statistics on rape might make womyn think they don't really have to go outside, but the statistics need to be said. #2 Boycotting companies that are bad and supporting charitable companies. #3 how violence only reinforces someone's beliefs #4 How rockn'roll top 40 never shows womyn with intelligence, just teeny boppers and sex symbols. #5 The media not telling us anything to protect the power. #6 about how the poverty stricken areas have the most problems, but instead of feeling compassion for them, we blame the victims. and lots more. Dave 103 E.Cherry Normal, Il. 61761

Punk Planet #3**
Alot of different stories from different columnists including Minneapolis own Dave Hake. All are somewhat unusual. I especially like the story about Spike Anarchi becoming a college professor and having a class on anarchy. That was rad. Otherwise, scene reports, interviews with Jawbreaker, Bank 77, Defiance, and Propagandi, record reviews, zine reviews, how to screenprint. 2$ to box 1711 Hoboken, NJ 07030-9998

Girlfriend #7***
Some of this I agreed with, some I didn't: I didn't agree with the rich kid taking food stamps thing. Food stamps are hard enough to get by poor people, when you don't need them, don't get them. save the $ for those in need. The government only gives out so much. Selfishness is not cool. What I agreed with: I agreed with what she said about guys making you feel like your lower than dogs. She is bisexual. Sometimes I wish I was lesbian to avoid the whole man thing. She presented two stories about this. In one she has a dream that all womyn are prostitutes and punk guys had all the $

"no," she said. "I'm not going to lie down. I'm going to stand here in front of you and make you look at me-make you look at me as I have to look at myself. You want me to lie down so you won't have to see me. Well, I won't do it. I'm going to stand here forever!" She shook me. "well," she said. "Say something! Go on tell me what you're thinking. I'm loathsome, aren't I? Disgusting. Say it!Say It!" Then suddenly her grasp loosened-collapsing, she fell to the floor. "Oh, God," she said. "please, help me. please....please....."